



education to Respondent's address of record in Eatontown, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail on or about April 30, 2014. The regular mailing was not returned. The United States Postal Service track and confirm system indicates that the certified mailing was delivered in Eatontown on May 10, 2014.

3. On or about May 25, 2014, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal for the period of June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2016.

4. Respondent was asked on the biennial renewal application whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2014," referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2014. Respondent answered "Yes" and certified that answer by submitting the online application.

5. To date, Respondent has not responded to the Board's request for information.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to respond to the Board's request for information constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation, in contravention of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, which the Board deems professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and also subjects Respondent to disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b), nurses are required to complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education during the preceding biennial period in order to renew their licenses. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(f), nurses are required to maintain documentation of completion of continuing education for a period of four years after completion, and shall submit such documentation to the Board upon request.

By virtue of having failed to respond to the letter of inquiry, Respondent is deemed to have failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that Respondent completed the continuing education credits required for renewal during the biennial period of June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2014. The Board therefore finds Respondent in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b) and 13:37-5.3(f), which in turn subjects Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's use of dishonesty and misrepresentation during the license renewal process in falsifying her continuing education information constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), subjecting Respondent to sanctions.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on January 21, 2015, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license and imposing a reprimand and a total of \$750 in civil penalties. A

copy of the Order was served upon respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order, providing all the information originally requested, including proof of timely completion of required continuing education. The Board therefore determined that suspension was not warranted, nor was imposition of the reprimand for misrepresentation on the renewal application, nor the \$250 penalty for failure to timely complete continuing education. However, respondent's initial failure to respond to the Board inquiry, thus making it necessary for the Board to issue an order to obtain the requested information, resulted in unnecessary delay, and an unnecessary waste of the Board's resources. Accordingly, the Board found the \$500 civil penalty for failure to timely cooperate should be imposed.

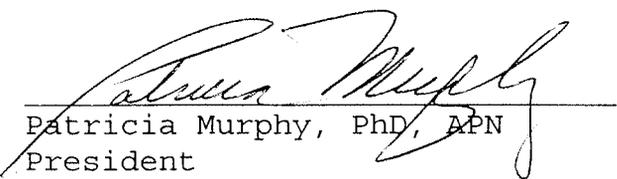
ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015,  
ORDERED that:

1. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) for failure to cooperate with a Board investigation. Payment shall be made by money order, bank cashier check or certified check, made payable to the State of New Jersey or by wire transfer, direct deposit or credit card payment delivered or mailed to George Hebert, Executive Director, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making payment. Payment shall be due no later than fifteen (15) days after the filing of this order. In the event that respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as are authorized by law.

2. The Board reserves the right to initiate disciplinary proceedings based upon any information that Respondent ultimately provides in response to the letter of inquiry or upon any new information the Board receives.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN  
President